



Hampton Roads Chapter of ASPA



1990, 1992, 1993 & 1998 Newsletter Award Recipient

December 2001



ASPA Chapter Officers 2001-2002

President

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Dr. Pete Carlson (Professional Development
Day Chair)
Sylvia Hill
Jerry Hoddinott (Marketing Chair)
Dr. William Leavitt
Dr. Berhanu Mengistu
Terry Moore
Earl Sorey
Erica Woods-Warrior (Student Rep.)

General Membership Luncheon Meeting

Date

Thursday, January 17, 2002

Location

Harbor Park, Hits at the Park Restaurant
Norfolk, VA, (757) 627-3837
<http://www.zip2.com/bizsearch/harborpark>

Time

Registration/Networking: 11:30a.m.
Luncheon/Program: 12:00p.m.

Speaker

Assistant Chief Michael B. Player, York County
Department of Fire and Life Safety

Cost

Advanced Registration

\$15 for ASPA members/non-members

\$13 for students

****NO SHOWS WILL BE BILLED****

On-Site Registration

\$20 for ASPA members/non-members

\$15 for students

Registration

Look for a registration form in the mail or
register on-line at

www.hampton.gov/budget/aspa

For Information Contact

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President's Message

By Joyce Heffington

I would like to extend my sincere condolences to all those who lost someone they knew or loved due to the horrible events on September 11, 2001. For those of us baby boomers who have lived through the assassination of a president and the Vietnam War, and for those even older who have lived through the Korean and a World War, this was a horror we hoped the rest of you would never have to experience. I don't know about you, but I feel like a little piece of me died that day.

September 11, 2001

It was Somebody's Spouse,
 It was Somebody's Child,
It was Somebody's parent,
 It was Somebody's sibling,
It was Somebody's friend,
 It was Somebody's coworker,
It was Somebody's classmate,
 It was Somebody's neighbor,
It was Somebody's customer,
 It was Somebody's employee,
It was you,
 It was me.
For we are the United States of America.
 One nation, under God, indivisible.
So when one of us dies, a part of all of us dies.
 But all of us will make sure that nobody
does this to anybody in this country again!
For we believe in liberty and justice for all!

We would like to salute all those public servants who risked their lives trying to save others, especially those many police officers and firefighters who did lose their lives. I am proud to live in a country where so many citizens, both in the public and private sectors, have given so much of their time and money to help in the rescue and relief efforts of this tragedy. Many of our local police officers and firefighters gave of

their time to help in the rescue effort in New York. Our local FEMA team worked hard saving lives at the Pentagon. Although we all could not go, our thoughts and prayers were with those that did.

But do we realize the sacrifice that these brave men and women make each day for us. Just a few weeks after the September 11th tragedies, a Norfolk Police Officer was killed trying to prevent a man from committing suicide. Officers never know when responding to a domestic emergency if an angry spouse or neighbor might fire at them. They do not know when they may be shot when stopping a driver for a traffic violation.

Firefighters also face great risks. Last year two veteran Chesapeake firefighters were killed when the roof of the building where they were putting out a fire collapsed. Perhaps the next time you see one of these emergency service providers you might give them a smile and tell them thank you for the job they do. Sometimes it is nice to hear that you are appreciated!

Sincerely,
Joyce Heffington, President

Members' Corner

New Members/Jobs/Promotions/Awards

Dr. Stephen King has some new opportunities pending and while this has meant his resignation as the Chapter's Treasure, we are nonetheless excited for him. A few things he has in the works include pursuing license and ordination with the International Pentecostal Holiness Church and teaching and ministering at his home church, Parkway Temple in Chesapeake. The most exciting opportunity, according to Dr. King, is the formation of a nonprofit ministry called "LIFE Ministries International" who's purpose is to teach and train pastors, lay church

leaders and congregational members of the vital role that the local church can and should play in the cultural and civil aspect of their local communities as well as their traditional spiritual roles. On behalf of the Chapter, we wish Dr. King the best of luck in his future endeavors. His Chapter leadership will be missed!

In light of Dr. King's resignation as Treasurer, **Terry Moore**, Council Member, has been named Chapter Treasurer. We know that he will serve the Chapter well in his new position!

Mary Mayer Hennelly has accepted the position of Associate Dean for Learning Resources at Tidewater Community College. She was formerly the Assistant Director/Support Services Administrator for the Norfolk Public Libraries.

Earl Sorey is now in the position of Transportation Engineer for the City of Chesapeake. Earl was previously the Traffic Engineer for the City of Portsmouth.

Congratulations to **Fagan Stackhouse**, Director of Human Resources in the City of Virginia Beach for being elected President-Elect of the International Personnel Management Association.

If anyone has news to share with fellow chapter members on a new job, promotion, award, etc., please contact [Leslie Beauregard](#), E-Newsletter Editor.

Events Calendar

January 17, 2002 - General membership meeting; **Location:** Harbor Park, Hits at the Park Restaurant, Norfolk, VA; **Speaker:** Assistant Chief Michael B. Player, York County Fire and Life Safety

March 21, 2002 - Professional Development Day; **Location and program** TBA

May 9, 2002 - Annual Awards Luncheon; **Location and program** TBA

Recruiting Our Future Public

Servants: A Report on the *Professional Student Forum*

By [Joyce Heffington](#), Planner, Hampton
Roads Sanitation District

On July 1, 2001 I officially began my duties as Chapter President. However, in June I started considering my goals for my chapter for the next year. I was reading the June edition of GOVERNING Magazine when I came across an article entitled "Ways to Sway an M.P.A." This article indicated that the public sector is losing a large percentage of the M.P.A. graduates to the private sector. It gave reasons for this. First, government work is viewed as "boring, bureaucratic and leaves little room for advancement." Secondly, the private sector recruit in the fall while government agencies recruit in the spring. So I set as one of my goals for our chapter to do more for college students majoring in public administration or related fields.

Each year in March our chapter holds a Professional Development day where we conduct workshops related to important and timely topics in public administration. When

our chapter council held our first meeting of the year in August, I shared my goals with them. I asked them to consider holding a student professional day in the fall. Our student representative volunteered to be the committee chair and a number of other council members volunteered to serve on the committee.

On November 2, 2001 we held our first annual student forum for junior, senior, and graduate level college students majoring in a public administration related field. The purpose of the event was "To increase awareness of the broad range of dynamic opportunities in the Public Administration field and encourage people to choose public service as their career; Show that the current direction of public service demands creative and innovative thinkers and rally people to be part of the revolution currently changing the face and direction of public service; Provide workshops that will help provide the tools and information they need to enter the field."

The committee solicited local governments and colleges to provide funding. We charged the students \$10 to cover the cost of lunch. If the student joined ASPA that day, the \$10 was applied towards membership. We had over 70 students attend and around 20 students joined ASPA. We shared with the students our personal feelings of fulfillment in public service. We showed them the opportunities to advance with the pending retirement of many baby boomers.

In the morning and early afternoon the committee put together workshops on Job Transitioning for Military & Non-Traditional Students, Resume Writing & Interviewing, Career Planning & Course Selection, Business Etiquette & Dress for Success, and Networking. We ended with Open Forum. This was a very informal session where we had representatives from different levels of government representing different career fields available for the students to approach on a one-to-one or small group basis to talk about how to build a career in that

particular field and what opportunities there were available. Representatives from all the local government Human Resources Departments were available to provide students with information about current job and internship opportunities.

We received nothing but positive feed back from the students who attended. We had enough money left from the event to provide two scholarships at our Awards Luncheon in the spring. We plan on holding this event again next fall. We would like to challenge the other chapters to come up with a plan to "recruit our future public servants," or feel free to borrow our idea!

Everyday Heroes

By [Joyce Heffington](#), Planner, Hampton Roads Sanitation District

So many times we take for granted the availability and excellent services of our local Emergency Services. But these people are my heroes every day! I would like to share with you the outstanding service I received from the City of Hampton.

On October 19th my family and I were on our way to the mountains for the weekend. Traffic on I-64 was heavy, so we decided to get off and travel via Route 60. Just after we turned on to Aberdeen Road, the car in front of us decided to come to a stop to make a turn. We stopped. The car in back of us said they did not even see us. We were rear-ended. My husband and daughter were hurt

I grabbed my cellular phone and dialed 911. The state police connected me to the Hampton Dispatcher. I had just hung up from reporting the incident to her when the fire truck and ambulance from Emergency Response Unit 9 showed up, followed by Officer Olson. The

emergency response people were not just efficient. They were very kind. Since my husband had to be taken to the hospital in the ambulance, I had to follow in our van after the accident report was filled out. I expressed my concern to one of the gentlemen on the ambulance that I did not know how to get to the hospital. He arranged for one of the firemen to show me the way. The fireman had to leave but he arranged for Officer Olson to lead me to the hospital.

Officer Olson collected all the necessary information from the other driver for me and then led me to the hospital. If a traffic light changed before I could get thru the intersection, he waited for me. He made sure I located my husband in the emergency room. He was very considerate. I have always told my daughter that police officers are our friends, but this officer proved this to her by his actions!

Again I want to thank these wonderful emergency services people for their outstanding service!

Hampton Roads to the Rescue

By [Joyce Heffington](#), Planner, Hampton Roads Sanitation District

Many of you may not be aware of how large a role Hampton Roads Emergency Services Personnel played in the recovery efforts following the acts of terrorism in New York City and Washington, D. C. Much media attention was given to the rescue efforts at the World Trade Center in New York. You may not be aware, but 37 Officers from the Norfolk Police Department went to New York City on their own, to assist there. A whole shift from the Chesapeake Fire Department voluntarily took their three days off and went to New York City to aid in the rescue efforts. Virginia Beach Fire Department Officers went to New York City to

aid the FEMA workers.

Less media attention was given to the rescue efforts at the Pentagon in Washington D. C. However, I was proud to see some of the members of the Hampton Roads FEMA Urban Search and Rescue Team in some of this coverage. This team played a major role in the rescue and recovery efforts at the Pentagon. Virginia Beach Police Officers accompanied the team to assist in their speedy arrival on the scene.

FEMA stands for the Federal Emergency Management Administration. This is an agency of the federal government tasked with everything from providing flood zone maps to disaster recovery. Part of this disaster recovery is Urban Search and Rescue. There are 28 Urban Search and Rescue teams from across the United States that perform these necessary tasks. They are made up of people from local public service and the private sector. Virginia has two of the 28 teams, one based in Fairfax and one based in Hampton Roads.

The purpose of the Urban Search and Rescue Team is mitigation of collapsed heavy reinforced concrete construction. Members of the Urban Search and Rescue Teams include Fire Fighters, Paramedics, Doctors, Civil Engineers, and search dogs to name a few. The teams must be self-sustaining for the first 72 hours of response, causing no impact on the infrastructure they are responding to. After this first 72 hours, the Department of Defense re-supplies the teams. The teams are made up of four sections. The Management Section provides support for those in the field. The Search section is made up of specialists in computers, GIS, seismic activity, etc. The Rescue section is made up of the fire fighters and search dogs. The Medical Section is made up of two doctors and four paramedics, whose job is to care for the team.

The sponsoring agency for the Hampton Roads FEMA Urban Search and Rescue Team is the Virginia Beach Fire Department. The team has

62 members. In addition to responding to the Pentagon, the team has also responded to areas of Florida devastated by hurricanes.

The role of these important teams is ever expanding. FEMA is considering splitting the teams to respond to smaller incidences. The Hampton Roads team is one of six that has been selected to be Weapons of Mass Destruction Certified. This will necessitate the addition of eight hazardous material members to the Hampton Roads Unit.

I am proud of our Hampton Roads Emergency Services and FEMA Urban Search and Rescue People. I also feel secure knowing they are ready and willing to respond when the need arises!

***Special Thanks to Battalion Chief Steve Cover for providing the information needed to give credit where credit was overdue!**

The Hero Within

By [Dr. Pete Carlson](#), Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Programs, Government and Public Affairs, Christopher Newport University

BZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZ!!! Ten seconds of loud tones split the silence. The emergency claxon is designed to wake the dead in an effort to save the living.

DISPATCH: "Smithfield Dispatch to any available ALS, Tech, or Driver in the Smithfield area, we need a medic to respond to 145 Commodore Lane. See a 54 year old male reporting severe chest pain."

RESQUE SQUAD HEADQUARTERS: "Dispatch, this is Isle of Wight Headquarters, we will have an ALS crew en route in a few moments."

With these few words, two or three emergency medical personnel are dispatched to another critical mission in Smithfield, Virginia. Personnel specifically trained for emergency medical care are sent with mandatory medical equipment to a local scene.

All of us live better and breathe easier knowing that an emergency medical service is as close as the telephone. Professionals are on duty to serve us across this great land.

The above scenario is not unique and is repeated hundreds of times in the course of every week in the Hampton Roads area. What is unusual is that Isle of Wight County, and many other rural areas in Virginia, are served by citizen volunteers who willingly give their time and energy to helping their neighbors at all hours of the day and night. These volunteers are civil servants, firemen, nurses, painters, students, college professors, men and women, young and old. They all work, play, and live in your communities across Hampton Roads, but all are special in that they deem it important to "give back" to their neighbors.

Certainly, the volunteering of one's time to such an altruistic calling is highly commendable. Many citizens benefit from the hours these unpaid Emergency Medical Technicians spend in training and in deed for their community.

And our paid personnel are also extremely valuable to us; no one will argue the debt America owes to the full time police, fire, rescue and emergency personnel that respond to human need every day of the week, 24-7. Our national gratitude has been well-directed to those emergency workers who responded to the World Trade Center terrorism on September 11, 2001, and all of us were vividly reminded how these selfless heroes put themselves at risk on a daily basis. A job? Yes. But one that many in our ranks are unable or unwilling to do as a routine part of one's daily responsibilities. Those that protect our public safety are exceptional people

and we truly owe all of them our sincere gratitude.

But from a public administration perspective, I am writing this piece to extol the added value that we get from those who perform these duties on a volunteer basis. We clearly benefit by having a relatively minimal-cost, high efficiency team of non-paid personnel provide emergency medical services for our friends and family. But there is even a higher level gain for our communities, our Commonwealth, and our nation...America has a quality, a virtue, that accrues from civic participation. This is what Alexis De Tocqueville found in our country in the 19th century: a public-spirited citizenry upon which we have constructed our "city set upon the hill." Citizenship in a civic community, one that hosts such effort as a volunteer rescue squad, is marked by participation in such public affairs. Michael Walzer put it this way: "Interest in public issues and devotion to public causes are the key signs of civic virtue"¹ that we must strive for and for which we must express thanks.

Citizenship in such a civic community mandates that neighbors interact with one another, protect each other, and serve our common life styles. We all have an obligation to each other, and each one of us should be seeking some means of volunteering our time to serve our communities. "The norms and values of the civic community are embodied in, and reinforced by, distinctive social structures and practices."² And such opportunities are available in our communities everywhere; your neighbors are giving their time and expertise as members of volunteer rescue squads and fire departments, public school boards, YMCA work, county and city government committees, and as tutors in our schools. These volunteers are active, public-spirited, and caring people. They are the bulwarks of our free land, the defenders of freedom as we know it, and true representatives of the American way of life that we cherish.

As pop singer Mariah Carey entitled the 1993

tune "Hero" that we so love, these volunteers are our heroes; we owe these intrepid citizens our respect and our appreciation. Better yet, express your gratitude by volunteering to serve others in your hometown. Many will appreciate it, and, as has been found by those that proceeded you in this work, you will gain more than you give.

Let the hero within come forth!

¹ Walzer, Michael. "Civility and Civic Virtue in Contemporary America," in Radical Principles (New York: Basic Books, 1980).

² Robert D. Putnam. Making Democracy Work (Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 1992). P 89.

*From the Hampton Roads Chapter of
ASPA Council to all of our
members.*



*Best Wishes for a Peaceful
Holiday Season!*